

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are now pending in the application. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the personal interview conducted on February 22, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the operation of the start-up circuit with respect to the prior art. The Examiner agreed that the prior art references fail to disclose a start-up circuit that operates conditionally. Therefore, the Examiner agreed that Claim 16 would be allowable as amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16-19, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiese et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,936,468. Claims 16, 22, 24, 29, 34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Muza, U.S. Pat. No. 6,556,081. Claims 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Minegishi, U.S. Pat. No. 6,462,618. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 16, Wiese, Musa, and Minegishi fail to show, teach, or suggest a start-up circuit that turns off when the output of the amplifier reaches a threshold voltage.

For anticipation to be present under 35 U.S.C §102(b), there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure as viewed by one skilled in the field of the invention. *Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. V. Genentech,*

Inc., 18 USPQ.2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991). All of the limitations of the claim must be inherent or expressly disclosed and must be arranged as in the claim. Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 7 USPQ.2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Wiese, Musa, and Minegishi fail to disclose the limitation that the start-up circuit turns off when the output of the amplifier reaches a threshold voltage.

For example, the Examiner states that Wiese discloses a startup circuit (3, 4).

Applicant respectfully notes that Wiese states:

The input stage formed by the second differential amplifier 3, 4 covers the lower range of the common mode input voltage. The potential shifting members 7, 8 enable the second differential amplifier 3, 4 to operate with voltages on the input terminals 5, 6 which are at least approximately zero with respect to ground 15; to this end, the potential shifting members increase the voltages at the base terminals of the third and fourth transistors 3, 4 with respect to the voltages at the input terminals 5 and 6, respectively, by a respective diode forward voltage which also appears between the base and the emitter terminal of each of the transistors 3, 4 of the second differential amplifier during operation.

(Column 5, Lines 50-62).

In other words, Wiese does not disclose that the amplifier 3, 4 operates as a start-up circuit as described in Applicants' claim 15. In particular, Wiese fails to show, teach, or suggest that the amplifier 3, 4 turns off when the output of the amplifier reaches a threshold voltage.

Similarly, Musa fails to show, teach, or suggest that transistors M37 and M38 turn off when an output of the amplifier reaches a threshold voltage. For example, "[c]ascoded transistors M37 and M38 serve to increase the gain of the input stage 302."
(Column 6, Lines 41-42).

Minegishi fails to show, teach, or suggest that transistors 101, 102 turn off when an output of the amplifier reaches a threshold voltage.

In an exemplary embodiment described in FIG. 1A and paragraph [0046] of the present invention, the start-up circuit 103 starts conducting current at power up, creating an output signal at output 109. When the output 109 reaches a threshold voltage, the start-up circuit turns off. Wiese, Musa, and Minegishi fail to disclose such a structure.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 29 and 39 and their dependent Claims are allowable for at least similar reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 1-15 are allowed. The Examiner states that Claims 20, 21, 23, 33, and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. However, Applicants elect to defer amending the claims into independent form until after the Examiner considers the above remarks.

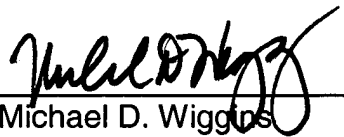
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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